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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGUI 00358 261819Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 INRE-00
SSO-00 NSCE-00 A-01 CCO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 /065 W
----------261824 062939 /42
O 261655Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8307
INFO AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0358

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, UG, CT
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADVICE AND GOOD OFFICES ON BEHALF OF
AMERICANS IN UGANDA

REF: A. BANGUI 357 (NOTAL) B. STATE 042666

1. AT FOUR O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOTN (1500Z) I WAS RECEIVED BY EMPEROR BOKASSA AT BOBANGUI. DRAWING ON GUIDANCE REF (B) I INFORMED HIM OF OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS IN UGANDA AND ASKED FOR HIS PERSONAL INTERVENTION WITH PRESIDENT AMIN ON THEIR BEHALF. I TOLD HIM WE WERE MAKING A SIMILAR APPEAL TO HIS CLOSE FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE PRESIDENT MOBUTU.

2. BOKASSA RESPONDED THAT HE HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE SITUATION CLOSELY ON VOA AND SHARED OUR CONCERN. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION. IN MY PRESENCE HE THEN SUMMONED PRIME MINISTER PATASSE AND COURT MINISTER BANGUE-TANDET AND DICTATED CONFIDENTIAL

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A FORTHRIGHT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT AMIN. HE INSTRUCTED THAT IT BE SENT BY ALL AVAILABLE MEANS (RADIO, COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM AND THROUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY) TO BE DELIVERED BY CAE AMBASSADOR IN KAMPALA.

3. ESSENCE OF MESSAGE WAS AN APPEAL TO AMIN TO SHOW SYMPATHY AND INDULGENCE TO AMERICAN CITIZENS. HE ASKED AMIN

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TO INSURE THAT THEIR RIGHTS WERE RESPECTED AND TO GRANT
THEIR WISHES SO THAT THOSE WHO SOUGHT TO DEPART COULD DO SO
AND THOSE WHO DESIRED TO STAY COULD STAY. MESSAGE CLOSED WITH A
REQUEST FOR A PROMPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FROM AMIN.

4. IN A SUBSEQENT ELABORATION OF HIS POSITION BOKASSA SAID
THAT AMIN WAS BRINGING ALL OF AFRICA INTO DISREPUTE. HE WAS
A "MADMAN" WHO WAS TOTALLY UNPREDICTABLE. BOKASSA DEPLORED
AMIN'S ACTIONS IN GENERAL, BUT PARTICULARLY AT A TIME WHEN
PRESIDENT CARTER WAS TAKING A POSITIVE AND FORWARD LOOKING
INTEREST IN AFRICA -- AN INTEREST WHICH BOKASSA SAID HE VERY
MUCH WELCOMED.

5. BOKASSA ASSURRED ME THAT HE WISHED TO BE HELPFUL TO OUR
INTERESTS WHENEVER HE COULD. HE WAS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO
RECEIVE ME WHEN I HAD A MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO TAKE UP. I
THANKED HIM FOR HIS ACTION ON OUR BEHALF AND HIS APPRECIATION OF
THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE REGARDED THIS ISSUE.

6. BOKASSA WILL BE VISITING THE EMBASSY'S TREASURES OF SPACE
EXHIBIT ON TUESDAY, AND IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL
IF I COULD PASS ON TO HIM SOME WORD OF APPRECIATION FROM
WASHINGTON LETTING HIM KNOW HIS GESTURE ON OUR BEHALF HAS
BEEN WELL RECEIVED.
QUAINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 26-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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